

Remarks

Claims 1, 17-19, 24, and 25 have been amended. No claims are currently cancelled or newly added. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-20, and 24-30 are pending, of which claims 17, 18, 24, and 25 are withdrawn from consideration. Support for the instant amendments is provided throughout the as-filed specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. In view of the following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to recite a system for carrying and moving an object that corresponds to the system for carrying and moving an object of claim 1. Similarly, claims 24 and 25 have been amended to include a method for carrying and moving an object that corresponds to the method for carrying and moving an object of claim 19. In other words, claims 1 and 19 recite Bsp respectively and claims 17, 18, 24 and 25 recite ABsp respectively. Therefore, the claims are not restrictable. See MPEP §806.05(c)I. Rejoinder and allowance of claims 17, 18, 24, and 25 are respectfully requested.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not present any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments merely amplify issues discussed throughout the prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims; (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary; and (e) were not made earlier because they are made in response to the points first presented in the Office Action. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested along with withdrawal of the final

Office Action.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies extended to Jean-Paul Hoffman and Brian Jelinek during the telephone interviews on December 5 and 11, 2007 (hereinafter the "Interview"). The substance of the Interview is incorporated into the remarks below and constitutes Applicant's record of the Interview.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9-16, 19, 20, 26-28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0018195 to Iwamoto et al. ("Iwamoto"). Applicant traverses this rejection because the cited portions of Iwamoto fail to disclose each and every aspect of the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 recites in part:

wherein the coil structure and the magnetic structure are positioned relative to each other and separated by an air bearing attached to the coil structure or the magnetic structure and configured to support said object carrier during motion at a first position along said first direction, the first position being on one end of whichever of the magnetic structure or coil structure is connected to the object carrier, and at a second position displaced from the first position along said first direction, the second position being on the opposite end of whichever of the magnetic structure or coil structure is connected to the object carrier, wherein the first and second positions and whichever of the magnetic structure or coil structure is connected to the object carrier are substantially in a same plane;

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the relied upon portions of Iwamoto at least because claim 1 recites, in part, the aspect of the "air bearing attached to the coil structure or the magnetic structure."

Iwamoto appears to show that the X-Y slider 38 includes bearings 35.

Iwamoto: Fig. 4A and 4B. It does not appear that Iwamoto describes that the bearings 35 are attached to linear motor stators 24 or 25, nor to movable elements (magnets) 26 or 27. Accordingly, the relied upon portions of Iwamoto do not disclose the aspect of the "air bearing attached to the coil structure or the magnetic structure" in combination with all the other aspects of claim 1.

For *at least* the reason that Iwamoto fails to disclose each and every aspect of the claimed invention, claim 1 is patentable over the relied upon portions of Iwamoto. Claim 19 includes similar subject matter as claim 1. Accordingly, claim 19 is patentable over the relied upon portions of Iwamoto for similar reasons to as noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-16, 20, 26-30 depend from claims 1 and 19 and therefore are also patentable over the relied upon portions of Iwamoto for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the features they recite individually.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 7, 8, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Iwamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,266 to Chitayat ("Chitayat"). Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the reason that the relied upon portions of Iwamoto and Chitayat, either alone or in combination with one another, do not disclose or teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention.

As discussed above, the relied upon portions of Iwamoto do not appear to disclose or teach claims 1 and 19. The relied upon portions of Chitayat do not appear to cure the deficiencies of Iwamoto. For example, Chitayat does not even refer to a bearing.

For *at least* these reasons, claims 1 and 19 are patentable over the

relied upon portions of Iwamoto and Chitayat. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-16, 20, 26-30 depend from claims 1 and 19 and therefore are also patentable over the relied upon portions of Iwamoto and Chitayat for the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 19, as well as for the features they recite individually.

Conclusion

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 033975 (Ref. No. **081468-0308590**).

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